COLORADO AWARDED \$2 MILLION HEALTH CARE INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Focus will be on planning for integration of physical and behavioral health services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2013

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DENVER – February 21, 2013 – The <u>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</u> <u>Innovation (CMMI) Center</u> announced today that Colorado was awarded \$2,000,422 in State Innovation Models initiatives funding. Colorado will use the funding over the next six months to further develop a State Health Care Innovation Plan with a focus on improved integration of physical and behavioral health services.

"Integration of behavioral health and substance abuse services with physical health services is a critical need for Colorado and our nation," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "We have a strong foundation for innovation in our Accountable Care Collaborative. This funding will help Medicaid and our public and private partners further develop plans to build upon the success of the Accountable Care Collaborative with a focus on behavioral health integration."

The State Innovation Models initiative is a competitive funding opportunity that allows states to design and test multi-payer payment and delivery models that deliver high-quality health care and improve health system performance. Three types of funding were available: Model Design, Pre-Testing Assistance and Model Testing awards. Sixteen states received Model Design funding to develop a Health Care Innovation Plan, three states (including Colorado) received Pre-Testing Assistance and six states received Model Testing awards to implement their plans for health care delivery system transformation.

Colorado's award funding will improve and enhance the State Health Care Innovation Plan. Specific areas Colorado will address include: on-boarding of multiple payers and stakeholders in state health care transformation efforts, further developing plans to integrate physical and mental health services, studying ways to provide school-based mental health services, studying best practices of integrating health care for the homeless population and further developing global payment strategies.

The grant proposal was led by Governor John Hickenlooper's office, the Departments of Health Care Policy & Financing, Human Services and Public Health and Environment, and included input from more than one hundred stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors representing governments, physical and behavioral health care providers, public and private payers, and advocates. The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing will be the primary implementing state agency for the proposal.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit <u>Colorado.gov/hcpf</u>.

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For more information on the awards announced today, please go to: http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/State-Innovations/.